

THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., OCT. 24, 1863.

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WEEKLY LETTER,

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A word of Advice.

Men who have passed their whole lives among the powerful restraints of christian society, are prone to forget to what a degree their virtues are the direct results of the circumstances by which they were surrounded. How small is the number who love virtue for her own beauty, and who, removed from the society of christian families, and freed from the bonds which have kept their evil passions from outward development, will still remain uncontaminated, and continue to display all their former excellencies of character. Every man's experience bears witness to the powerful influence of good example, and especially that which reaches him through the family. He feels when separated from its refining power that he has lost something good and pure from his nature and realizes that there is that within him, which, unrestrained would soon cause him to relapse into the condition of a savage.

The moral faces which God has set in motion are equally powerful with all races of men. We look back and see what our ancestors have been; we look around and see what many of our own race are today; and we cannot avoid the conclusion that the difference between the condition of the degraded race by which we are here surrounded is due very much to the absence of those circumstances to which we owe the measure of refinement and virtue we possess, and we must come to the conclusion that the same influences may raise the most degraded of races much nearer to the level we occupy than our pride is willing to acknowledge.

In view then of the power of good example, shall we not, for the sake of those who are now putting on for the first time the dignity of manhood and its responsibilities, shall we not guard more vigilantly all that there is in us if good; try to check promptly any yielding to evil; resist more strenuously every temptation to depart from virtue? Shall we not have a broader charity, a more enduring patience, a brighter hope for the ignorant and degraded.

How many of our soldiers are the children of prayer! On how many family altars is the absent son laid as a morning and evening sacrifice! Let not those prayers ascend in vain, and while each cares for his own soul, let him remember that an imitative race, just rising from the barbarism entailed by servitude, is watching his every act, and that as circles from the pebble cast into the sea cease not till they break upon the shores of either continent, so the influences of a thoughtless or a wicked deed may be felt upon the future of a whole people.

It appears from the Richmond correspondence of the London Times, that the Charlestonians had relied confidently on the equinoctial gales to drive the fleet of iron-clads from the coast, when Beauregard promised to make an assault on Morris Island; they were greatly disgusted at their meteorological ally failing to accomplish what was expected.

Editorial Correspondence.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 10th.

"Wait and watch," seems now to be the order of the day. The opposing armies on the Rapidan confront each other day after day, each intently scrutinizing the least movement of its foe, hoping to detect a weak spot wherein to plant a fatal blow, or anxiously expecting that terrible onset which is to destroy one or the other of these veteran enemies. So often have they tried their strength together that something like a friendship has grown up between them, founded, I suppose, on that mutual esteem for each other's valor engendered by the terrible fields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, to say nothing of the Peninsula and Antietam. An eager desire is felt in our army again to meet these "foemen worthy of our steel."

Hardly a ripple breaks the monotony of "all quiet in the army of the Potomac." Occasionally we hear of a sleepy picket captured, an unsuspecting traveller shot, or an unfortunate sutler relieved of his stock in transitu—all of which are credited to the ubiquitous Moseby—six times dead, but still quite lively. Or, on the other hand, Buford now and then wakes up the spirits of Stuart's once famous cavalry, or Kilpatrick dashes into the rebel lines and leaves his mark. But these are but fitful gusts—the storm will burst ere long.

FROM THE WEST.

Ever since the retreat of Rosecrans to Chattanooga an uneasy feeling has prevailed as to his ability to sustain himself. This has gradually given place to a confidence that he knew what he said when he asserted that he was master of the situation. The terrible slaughter inflicted on Bragg's army in its desperate effort to get between our army and Chattanooga has so weakened and demoralized it that it can not be brought up to the work of a second attack. The Richmond papers confess the virtual failure of the campaign, and mourn over the slain whose places can never be refilled. Gen. Hood is more generally lamented than any man since Albert Sidney Johnson fell.

Vast numbers of troops have been hurried to Rosecrans, and in a few days it is thought he will again take the offensive with a larger force than ever. Burnside and Hooker have joined him, and the veterans of Vicksburg also swell his numbers. Bragg will have a chance soon to recommence the practice of his favorite tactics—retreat.

THE PROSPECT.

The rebellion has in three ways hoped to maintain itself. First, by its armies; second, by foreign recognition and aid; third, by the help of the sympathizers and cowards of the north. Its first hope is failing every day. The material results of success always remain with the army of the Union. The solitary and isolated victories won by the valor of southern troops are barren of substantial fruits. State by state has been conquered and stays conquered. Wherever the hand of the government is laid the grasp is never removed. Gradually the confederate armies are forced back, until the limits of the rebellion have shrunk to scarce a third of its original size. Its armies are crumbling away, its enthusiasm is giving place to despondency, and the prestige of success has long ago departed from its banners.

Financially, the rebellion is ruined. Its currency has sunk until hardly quotable. In its own capital, within hearing of the stamping press of the Secretary of the Treasury, the auctioneer sells confederate money at fourteen for one of gold. The notes of suspended state banks sell at four dollars, and greenbacks, the currency of the hated Yankee, is eagerly sought for at eight for one. Its foreign loans are failing, falling, falling, as each steamer takes out news of Union victories.

In ordering Mr. Mason to withdraw from England the rebel leaders have confessed their diplomatic defeat, and the comments of the English press clearly

show that they have nothing further to expect. The Times is conclusive on this point: "Recognition is not to be thought of." Mr. Mason has indignantly retired to Paris, and with him goes the last hope of rebel success by the aid of England. Doubly disappointed in its military and diplomatic hopes, can it trust itself to the last?

I think not. Treason has done its worst in the free states. The failure of the secession party—for this is its true name—in Maine, California, Vermont and Connecticut is conclusive proof that the rebellion cannot depend on northern help. Next Tuesday will destroy what little chance remains; for Pennsylvania, which has already done so much to break its military power, will continue the work by the election of a loyal governor. Ohio and the great west will follow suit, and the ides of November will crush the last hopes of northern and southern traitors. J. G. T.

A Rebel Colonel on "Peace."

A story was published in the New York paper some days since, representing a Colonel R. C. Hill as telling Gen. Custer, under flag of truce at Fredericksburg, that "there would soon be peace," adding certain reasons in support of this prophecy. The whole of this statement, as was supposed at the time, turns out to be false. The Richmond Sentinel of the 16th inst. publishes a card from Col. Robert C. Hill, of the Forty-eighth North Carolina regiment, in which he says he had an interview with Gen. Custer, as stated, on the 18th of August, but that it had reference to picket-firing opposite Fredericksburg, and nothing at all was said as to peace. Col. Hill adds:

"I am opposed to peace on any terms short of a submission of the federals to such terms as we may dictate; which, in my opinion, should be Mason's and Dixon's line as a boundary, the exclusive navigation of the Mississippi below Cairo, full indemnification for all the negroes stolen and property destroyed, the restoration of Forts, arsenals, Jefferson, Key West, and all other strongholds which may have fallen into their possession during the war. If they are unwilling to accept of these terms, a proposal should be made that the war shall not cease until the federals have broken to pieces from mere routings and want of subsistence, when we will step in as the only practical power on the western hemisphere, and take possession of the pieces as scattered and conquered provinces."

These are the people who are to be conciliated by soft words, and who would at once lay down their arms upon the withdrawal of our armies from among them.

Hon. A. D. Smith has been appointed by Gen. Saxton to exercise the powers and duties of Justice of the Peace, with general civil and criminal jurisdiction in the district embracing the islands of Hilton Head, St. Helena, Fort Royal, Paris Islands and the islands adjacent, to take and certify affidavits, take acknowledgement of deeds and other instruments in writing, &c. This appointment meets the wants of citizens and soldiers in matters which have been heretofore overlooked, but which are daily increasing in importance. We trust the Judge will not hesitate to assume the discharge of these useful, and we may say indispensable functions.

It would require no other evidence of the return of the Chief Quartermaster than the new life, order and vigor apparent in that department; but when we meet from time to time his portly form and pleasant countenance, we join our congratulations with those of our citizens upon the return of Capt. John H. Moore to his old post and pleasant quarters. May his shadow never be less.

The Baltimore papers notice the early appearance of wild ducks. They say the black heads and red heads have made their appearance in the head waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The Philadelphia journals say that the copperheads, or lame ducks, that were recently so plenty around the head waters of Delaware Bay, have vanished.

It is rumored that Col. Serrell, of the Engineer Corps, has tendered his resignation to Gen. Gillmore, and that it has been accepted.

Vote of the Ohio Soldiers in Beaufort.

BEAUFORT, S. C., Oct 21, 1863.

MR. EDITOR:—You will please give this scrap of political news room in your paper as we have been requested by gentlemen of the different Ohio regiments of the Department, to let them know how the election at this Post went; we knew of no better way to accommodate them than through the medium of your columns. By doing so you will oblige them.

Oct. 13th 1863.

The qualified electors of Beaufort Post, met at Chatfield Hall and organized by calling Sergeant J. P. Owen's to the chair. The following persons were elected and duly qualified to act as Judges and Clerks of the election, viz:—Sergeant J. P. Owen, Co. K, 67th Ohio Volunteers; Sergeant R. P. Stokely, Co. A, 62d Ohio Volunteers; Sergeant W. H. Stoneburner, Co. A, 62d Ohio Volunteers, Judges; and Sergeant W. Snyder, Co. C, 67th Ohio Volunteers; and Corporal Ben. S. Harford, Co. E, 62d Ohio Volunteers, Clerks. There were nineteen Counties represented, and THIRTY-EIGHT VOTES POLLED, GIVING A UNANIMOUS MAJORITY OF THIRTY-SEVEN. The election passed off quietly.

CLERKS.

Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, having written a letter in support of slavery, and the letter having been circulated by the Democratic Convention of Pennsylvania as a campaign document, Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania, and about eighty of the Episcopal clergy of that state have felt themselves called to protest against the views of Bishop Hopkins. They say of the letter:—

"This attempt not only to apologise for slavery in the abstract, but to advocate it as it exists in the cotton states, and in states which sell men and women in the open market as their staple product, is in their judgment, unworthy of any servant of Jesus Christ. As an effort to sustain, on Bible principles, the states in rebellion against the government, in the wicked attempt to establish by force of arms a tyranny under the name of a republic, whose corner stone shall be the perpetual bondage of the African, it challenges their indignant reprobation."

Since the change of front of servable in England towards this country, two of the leading journals Paris have boldly asserted that France cannot now recognize the Davis Government. "It is too late," asserts the *Siècle*, the republican organ, and the *Orléans National*, the organ of the liberal party headed by Prince Napoleon. Now that it is certain that England will not aid him, perhaps Napoleon the Third will likewise say "It is too late."

We have received a communication from Judge Smith, of the Tax Commission, in reply to an article published by us last week, from the *American Epitaph* entitled, "Whitewashing Secesh Doctors." As our columns are crowded, we think he will excuse us if we postpone the matter for one week; especially as we do not think his reputation at all in peril.

An agreeable hour may be passed by our citizens and soldiers in examining the beautiful specimens of art at R. V. Balsan's Photographic Rooms, near the camp of the 56th N. Y. Volunteers, where pictures are taken by artists who understand their business, and at reasonable prices.

Lieut.-Col. Hall, Provost-Marshal General of the Department of the South, has returned from leave of absence in the north.

We are indebted to Purser Fenwick of the Steamer *Cosmopolitan*, for late New York papers.

Major Gen. Gillmore was in town on Thursday, the guest of Gen. Saxton.

Maj.-Gen. Augur is acting commander of the Department of Washington, Gen. Houtell being ill.